

The Physician's BOOKSHELF



BASIC GASTRO-ENTEROLOGY—Including Diseases of the Liver—J. M. Naish, M.D., F.R.C.P., Consultant Physician, Frenchay Hospital, Bristol; Lecturer in Medicine, University of Bristol; and A. E. A. Read, M.D., F.R.C.P., Reader in Medicine, University of Bristol; Honorary Assistant Physician, Bristol Royal Infirmary, United Bristol Hospitals, and South-Western Regional Hospital Board. With chapters by T. J. Butler, M.D., F.R.C.S. and K. T. Evans, M.R.C.P., F.F.R. Distributed in the United States by the Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore 2, Maryland, 1965. 351 pages, \$11.00.

The authors wrote this book to provide the basic principles and facts of gastroenterology for young doctors interested in learning the elements of gastroenterology. In order not to confuse the reader by presenting both sides of controversial subjects, the authors attempted to give what they consider the middle view, without appearing to be dogmatic. This is a difficult task to encompass in a volume of some 300 pages, and it is therefore to the credit of the authors that they have done an admirable job. The book will prove useful to the physician, surgeon, radiologist, pathologist or physiologist seeking an introduction to clinical gastroenterology.

WILLIAM H. BACHRACH, M.D.

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DISORDERS OF CARBOHYDRATE METABOLISM IN INFANCY—Marvin Cornblath, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, The University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago; and Robert Schwartz, M.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Western Reserve University School of Medicine; Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital. Volume III in the Series: Major Problems in Clinical Pediatrics—Alexander J. Schaffer, Consulting Editor. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London, 1966. 297 pages, \$8.50.

This is the third book in a series being edited by Dr. Alexander J. Schaffer. The first two books, also reviewed in this journal, were Avery's "The Lung and Its Disorders in the Newborn Infant" and Markowitz and Kuttner's "Rheumatic Fever, Diagnosis, Management and Prevention." This third volume continues the standard of excellence established by the previous two. The field of carbohydrate metabolism in infancy is a relatively new one. A great deal has been learned in the last 10 years, and both Dr. Cornblath and Dr. Schwartz are leaders in this field. This book is particularly timely with the increased interest in hypoglycemia in the neonate.

The book is arranged in five parts. The first part deals with metabolism of carbohydrates in general in a rather abbreviated fashion, goes on to metabolic adjustments in pregnancy, dealing with the mother, the placenta and the fetus, and finally describes carbohydrate homeostasis in the neonate. This method of dealing with the subject in a developmental fashion sets the stage for a discussion of the problems in homeostasis which follow. Part II deals with the clinical problems of adjustments in the neonate, including infant of a diabetic mother, transient symptomatic hypoglycemia in the neonate and a relatively rare entity, transient diabetes mellitus in early infancy. The chapter on symptomatic hypoglycemia in the neonate is particularly valuable in the everyday conduct of the newborn nursery giving as it does physiology, normal values

and interpretation of abnormal findings. Part III deals with hereditary metabolic disorders, namely disorders of glycogen metabolism and hereditary galactose and fructose intolerance. Part IV deals with hypoglycemia in infancy beyond the newborn stage. It describes the general approach to the clinical problem, differential diagnosis, the biochemical tests available and their interpretation, and a rather complete differential diagnosis of individual hypoglycemic syndromes concludes this portion.

The final portion of the book is devoted to disorders of carbohydrate absorption and digestion concentrating particularly on specific enzyme deficiency states. An appendix includes special diets (galactose-free, sucrose and fructose free, leucine-restricted), and a table of carbohydrate content of foods. The bibliography is very complete and up-to-date. The book is lucidly written and it is highly recommended for medical students, house officers and all physicians who have to deal with newborns and young infants. This is a splendid opportunity to catch up in an important field which has had many recent advances.

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PEDIATRIC THERAPY—Second Edition—Harry C. Shirkey, B.S. (Pharm.), M.D., F.A.A.P. (Editor), Director, The Children's Hospital of Birmingham, Ala.; Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Medical College of Alabama, Birmingham, Ala.; Professor and Chairman, Department of Pharmacology, Howard College, Birmingham, Ala.; member, Revision Committee, and Chairman, Pediatric Panel, Pharmacopoeia of the United States. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, Mo., 1966. 1223 pages, \$18.50.

Dr. Shirkey, Director of Children's Hospital at Birmingham, Alabama, aims to give a sophisticated and detailed presentation of treatment, from pharmacologic principles to complete practical management of sick children. It is more than a text of applied clinical pharmacology in that it attempts to deal with all aspects of therapeutic management.

The first three parts (chapters 1 to 32) are of a general nature: part one on drug therapy, including fundamentals of drug therapy, techniques of administration, conditions which alter dosage, principles in choice of drugs, teratology, reactions, etc.; part II, general therapy, includes chapters on home therapy, chronically ill children, parenteral fluid, nutritional and gamma globulin therapy, to list a few. There is also a series of chapters on symptomatic treatment.

The remainder of the book is divided into categorical arrangements of diseases (respiratory, cardiovascular, genitourinary, metabolic, allergic, infectious, tumors, poisonings, etc.). Within each category are several chapters detailing the management of children with specific diseases and, at the end, a table of drug dosages. Throughout, there is a liberal use of good illustrations.

Dr. Shirkey had the help of 83 other authors and, as might be predicted, the result is somewhat uneven. A few of the contributors fail in their assignment, most chapters are quite adequate, and several are very good and contain practical information which is not available in the usual texts.

This book will be most valuable to the practicing physician and will provide a quick brush-up on the details of management learned as a house officer, particularly of less common diseases. Even if there is not entire agreement with the recommended handling of all of the features of a particular illness, it will serve as a reminder and be a check on the physician's own program of management. Generally, he will also acquire some useful new information.

This book will be a useful addition to the clinician's library if he does not already have the first edition, which came out in 1964.

RODERIC H. PHIBBS, M.D.

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PRINCIPLES OF PATHOLOGY—Second Edition—Howard C. Hopps, M.D., Chief, Division of Geographic Pathology, The Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Appleton-Century-Crofts, New York, N.Y., 1964. 403 pages, \$8.95.

This volume is the second edition of *Principles of Pathology* first published by Hopps in 1959. According to the author, the book was written primarily for the undergraduate medical student and, as the title indicates, stresses basic concepts in pathology rather than detailed factual information. The approach is a classical one, beginning with circulatory disturbances and degenerative processes and proceeding through metabolic and nutritional disorders, inflammation, infection, regeneration and repair, and neoplasia. Rather than writing a synopsis of pathology, Hopps has emphasized causative mechanisms and broad concepts of the effects of disease. The style of the 12 chapters is lecture-like. The writing is clear and engagingly interesting. The illustrations are unusual in a book on pathology in that they consist of black-and-white line drawings, tables, diagrams, formulas, and graphs—the sort of visual material that good teachers often employ to illustrate their lectures. This book would not replace one of the standard textbooks of pathology for today's medical student, but ought to be useful to him in organizing his basic knowledge in the subject.

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BECK'S OBSTETRICAL PRACTICE—Eighth Edition—E. Stewart Taylor, M.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Denver, Colorado. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Md., 1966. 658 pages, \$14.50.

E. Stewart Taylor has completely rewritten the eighth edition of Beck's famed textbook and, with his revision, has reduced the 1,115 pages of the seventh edition to 658 pages in the current one. Inasmuch as there are now 15 American textbooks of general obstetrics in print, each new book brings forth speculation as to which portion of the limited market each author hopes to appeal. Dr. Taylor has clearly set his sights on the medical student.

The book is well suited to the student beginning his obstetrical clerkship, for within the early portions of the book there is sufficient information to enable the student to intelligently participate in normal antenatal care and deliveries. The chapters "Chronologic development of pregnancy," "Changes in maternal organism," and "Multiple pregnancy" are superb for their organization, presentation of general principles, and relevance. The book is profusely illustrated, using much of the material from previous editions.

The author's tendency to mention all subjects, no matter how rare, leads in a book of this small size to somewhat superficial and dogmatic discussion in many areas. The comments on uterine inertia are particularly brief. It is also difficult to understand why in a book of this

type, so much space is given to topics such as version and inversion of the uterus. An additional topic that should be of great interest, but has been apparently deleted from all the current obstetric textbooks, would be a discussion of normal values of laboratory tests for each trimester of pregnancy and the postpartum period.

The portions of the book which should have widespread appeal are the bibliographies found at the end of each of the 49 chapters. These are current and well chosen, and by themselves are worth the price of the book. The book is highly recommended for all students of obstetrics, regardless of their state of training.

ROBERT C. GOODLIN, M.D.

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SYNOPSIS OF OBSTETRICS—Seventh Edition—Charles E. McLennan, M.D., Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto, Calif. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1966. 471 pages, \$6.85.

The Synopsis has been used profitably by many generations of medical students and house officers. The Seventh Edition is another good one and should be of great help to students of the subject. The volume is decidedly readable and surprisingly broad in its coverage for a synopsis. Dr. McLennan again demonstrates a knack for positivism when the facts warrant it and caution when they do not. The volume is a fine guide to labor and delivery but also includes discussions of the many medical and surgical complications of pregnancy and of fetal and maternal physiology. The illustrations in the present edition have been up-dated from the old and are excellent. In point of fact this is almost the only major change from the prior edition; the chapter headings are identical, and in most cases the text is altered only in minor ways. This does not detract from the usefulness of the volume, however. It should serve as a valuable, quick reference for those who lack either the time or inclination to consult one of the larger texts.

LEO D. LAGASSE, M.D.

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PEDIATRIC ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY—Normal and Abnormal Patterns, Incorporating the Vector Approach—Warren G. Guntheroth, M.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle. Illustrated by the Author. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, Pa., 1965. 150 pages, \$7.00.

The author's stated purpose in this 138 page monograph is to provide an accurate but brief introduction to electrocardiography with emphasis on pediatric experience. He succeeds in doing just that.

In addition to the standard tables on the range of normal R, S, and R/S voltage ratios published by Ziegler in 1951 and Manning and Smiley in 1964, the author gives examples from 110 normal patients of all ages from his files, as well as illustrating the features of abnormal tracings from his files of patients with known cardiac lesions. The first half of the text is a review of electrophysiology summarizing general principles, lead systems, vector analysis, methods of recording and routine interpretation of the ECG and VCG. There follows a brief review of disorders of rate and rhythm and examples of the variations of the normal ECG at all ages with the normal evolution of the adult vector pattern.

Throughout the text specific examples are cited from patients with known anatomic lesions. Both the ECG and VCG taken with the Frank system are presented in each case and the component vector forces analyzed.

In the section on hypertrophy the author struggles against the loose use of such terms as hypertrophy, diastolic overload, pressure work and volume work as they